

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A flashlight assembly, comprising:
a flashlight having
a body portion having a forward end and a rearward end, the rearward end having a split-ring clip portion;
a light source carried by the body portion;
a power source carried in the body portion for energizing the light source;
a momentary contact switch configured to operatively couple the power source and the light source; and
a carrier for releasably retaining the flashlight.
2. The flashlight assembly in accordance with claim 1 wherein the light source is a light emitting diode.
3. The flashlight assembly in accordance with claim 2 wherein the power source is at least one battery.
4. The flashlight assembly in accordance with claim 1 wherein the power source is a pair of batteries.
5. The flashlight assembly in accordance with claim 3 wherein the light emitting diode includes a pair of leads configured for placement on opposite sides of the at least one battery.
6. The flashlight assembly in accordance with claim 1 including an annular insulating spacer disposed between a surface of the at least one battery and the momentary contact switch operative to space the momentary contact switch out of electrical contact with a surface of the at least one battery.
7. The flashlight assembly in accordance with claim 1 wherein the momentary contact switch includes a flexible disk formed of conductive material.
8. The flashlight assembly in accordance with claim 2 further including an annular insulating spacer, and a flexible disk formed of conductive material disposed between the annular insulating spacer and one lead of the light emitting diode.
9. The flashlight assembly in accordance with claim 1 wherein the body portion includes a cup-shaped recess defined by a bottom portion, sidewalls integrally formed with the bottom portion, and an open top portion.
10. The flashlight assembly in accordance with claim 1 including a top cover having at least a portion formed of elastomeric material.

11. The flashlight assembly in accordance with claim 10 wherein an underside of the top cover includes a plurality of depending rings formed in the elastomeric material.
12. The flashlight assembly in accordance with claim 1 wherein the body portion includes a replaceable bottom wall.
13. The flashlight assembly in accordance with claim 12 wherein the replaceable bottom wall is formed of plastic.
14. The flashlight assembly in accordance with claim 1 wherein when the flashlight is selectively inserted into the carrier, the momentary contact switch of the flashlight is urged against a portion of the carrier to activate the flashlight.
15. The flashlight assembly in accordance with claim 1 wherein the carrier includes a pair of laterally opposed arms.
16. The flashlight assembly in accordance with claim 1 wherein the carrier includes a mounting clip configured to grasp an article of clothing or other support.
17. The flashlight assembly in accordance with claim 17 wherein the mounting clip is generally U-shaped.
18. A flashlight assembly, comprising:
 - a flashlight having
 - body portion having a forward end and a rearward split-ring clip end;
 - a light source carried by a portion of the body portion;
 - a power source carried by the body portion;
 - a momentary contact switch configured to electrically couple the power source and the light source;
 - a top cover configured to cover a portion of the body portion, at least a portion of the top cover formed of an elastomeric material; and
 - a carrier for slideably receiving the flashlight, the carrier having a portion configured to contact the momentary contact switch.
19. The flashlight assembly in accordance with claim 18 wherein the light source is a light emitting diode.
20. The flashlight assembly in accordance with claim 19 wherein the power source is at least one battery.
21. The flashlight assembly in accordance with claim 18 wherein the power source is a pair of batteries.

22. The flashlight assembly in accordance with claim 20 wherein the light emitting diode has a pair of leads operatively disposed on opposite sides of the at least one battery.

23. The flashlight assembly in accordance with claim 20 including an annular insulating spacer disposed between a surface of the at least one battery and the momentary contact switch operative to space the momentary contact switch out of contact with the surface of the at least one battery.

24. The flashlight assembly in accordance with claim 18 wherein the momentary contact switch includes a flexible disk formed of conductive material.

25. The flashlight assembly in accordance with claim 19 further including an annular insulating spacer, and a flexible disk formed of conductive material disposed between the annular insulating spacer and one lead of the light emitting diode.

26. The flashlight assembly in accordance with claim 18 wherein the body portion includes a cup-shaped recess defined by a bottom portion, sidewalls integrally formed with the bottom portion, and an open top portion.

27. The flashlight assembly in accordance with claim 18 wherein an underside of the top cover has a plurality of depending rings formed in the elastomeric material.

28. The flashlight assembly in accordance with claim 18 wherein the body portion includes a replaceable bottom wall.

29. The flashlight in accordance with claim 28 wherein the replaceable bottom wall is configured to receive at least one of a plurality of indicia.

30. The flashlight in accordance with claim 29 wherein the indicia is selected from the group consisting of text, graphics, designs, and corporate logos.

31. The flashlight in accordance with claim 29 wherein the indicia is applied or affixed to the replaceable bottom wall by techniques selected from the group consisting of engraving, silk screening, inking, pad printed, foil stamping, and marking.

32. The flashlight assembly in accordance with claim 28 wherein the replaceable bottom wall is formed of plastic.

33. The flashlight assembly in accordance with claim 18 wherein a portion of the carrier contacts the momentary contact switch of the flashlight when the flashlight is selectively inserted into carrier thereby activating the flashlight.

34. The flashlight assembly in accordance with claim 18 wherein the carrier includes a pair of laterally opposed arms.

35. The flashlight assembly in accordance with claim 18 wherein the carrier includes a mounting clip.

36. The flashlight assembly in accordance with claim 35 wherein the mounting clip is U-shaped.

37. The flashlight assembly in accordance with claim 35 wherein the mounting clip is configured to grasp an article of clothing.